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RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE  
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Monday, 09 November 2009, 12:02  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 VATICAN 000113  
SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 11/9/2034  
TAGS PGOV, PREL, PHUM, KIRF, UK, VT  
SUBJECT: THE VATICAN AND THE ANGLICANS: OPPORTUNITY OR OPPORTUNISM?  
REF: VATICAN 82  
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CLASSIFIED BY: Rafael Foley, Polchief. REASON: 1.4 (b), (d) Summary

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11. (C) The upcoming visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury to Rome November 21 will take place with the background of the Vatican's far-reaching  
Go It Alone

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12. (C) On October 22, POL/ECONOFF spoke with XXXXXXXXXXXX. XXXXXXXXXXXX said that the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, which is responsible  
13. (C) During the press conference announcing the upcoming release of the "apostolic constitution" that will set the implementing mechanism to

Most appealing to conservatives

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14. (C) In a separate conversation, British Ambassador Francis Campbell told Ambassador Diaz that if many Anglicans decide to join the Catholic

15. (SBU) In a recent article, Vatican specialist and author John Allen (U.S.) concluded that "when the dust settles, the centuries-old breach  
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intact." In this view, the apostolic constitution will not make the Catholic Church in the U.S. or elsewhere more conservative, because the number

The harshest critic

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16. (SBU) The harshest public criticism for the decision has come from a former friend of the Pope, the Swiss theologian Hans Kung. In an article

Views from the Pope's loyalists

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17. (SBU) Embassy contacts who are most loyal to the Pope and are the first to defend his decisions have explained the announcement about the

18. (SBU) The Pope's response, the professor adds, is very progressive, because it allows for greater diversity of rites within the Catholic Church

19. (SBU) The professor also maintained that the apostolic constitution does not have anything to do with a relaxation of priestly celibacy. Comment:

winners and losers

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110. (C) As the dust settles, it is possible to see the winners and losers of the Pope's decision. On the winning side is Cardinal Levada, the

111. (C) On the losing side, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Cardinal Kasper, the German prefect of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity